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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: CASC,SOCI,SCUL,IS
SUBJECT: LOCAL PRESS ARTICLE ON BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY
1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE BY ARIEH EGOZI WHICH APPEARED IN AUGUST 5 EDITION OF YEDIOTH AHRONOTH:
BEGIN TEXT
THE "BLACK HEBREWS" RECENTLY ESTABLISHED A FACTORY IN LIBERIA, THE INCOME FROM WHICH IS APPARENTLY MEANT TO FINANCE THE SETTLEMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE SECT ALREADY IN ISRAEL AND TO ENABLE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO JOIN THEM. IT SEEMS THAT ATTEMPTS WILL BE MADE TO INFILTRATE A LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE SECT INTO ISRAEL IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND THE POLICE WILL BE READY FOR SUCH A POSSIBILITY.
TWO WEEKS AGO TWO MEMBERS OF THE SECT WERE ARRESTED IN LOD AS THEY ATTEMPTED TO ENTER ISRAEL ON FALSE DOCUMENTS. EDGAR BRANSON, WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY DEPORTED FROM ISRAEL, PRESENTED AT LOD AIRPORT A PASSPORT IN THE NAME OF
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MITCHELL STROY AND AN AMERICAN POLICEMAN'S DOCUMENT. THE SECOND PERSON WHO TRIED TO ENTER ISRAEL WAS ARTHUR SCOTT WHO ALSO TRIED TO ENTER ISRAEL ON A FORGED POLICEMAN'S DOCUMENT.
DURING THE INVESTIGATION, SCOTT CONFESSED THAT HE AND BRANSON HAD THEIR PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT THE SAME TIME IN ORDER TO FALSIFY THE POLICEMAN'S DOCUMENTS. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THEY USED THE SAME SHIRT AND HAT.
AT THE END OF LAST WEEK THE TWO WERE TRIED AT THE RAMLE MAGISTRATE'S COURT AND WERE CONVICTED OF USING FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS. THE JUDGE GAVE THEM A ONE MONTH JAIL SENTENCE AND ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO DEPORT THEM FROM THE COUNTRY.
IT APPEARS THAT THE LEADERS OF THE BLACK HEBREW SECT IN THE U.S.A. ARE MAKING TREMENDOUS EFFORTS TO GATHER FUNDS IN ORDER TO HELP THEIR FRIENDS IN ISRAEL. ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS ARE GIVEN TO ANYONE WHO WISHES TO TRAVEL TO ISRAEL

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AND MANY ARE ENCOURAGED TO DO SO. SAID ONE OF THE TWO WHO WERE ARRESTED AT THE AIRPORT.

A "JAMES BOND" TYPE ATTACHE CASE FULL OF GOLD JEWELRY VALUED AT HALF A MILLION ISRAELI POUNDS WAS CONFISCATED FROM BRANSON. APPARENTLY, THIS JEWELRY WAS MEANT FOR THE BLACK HEBREW SECT IN DIMONA AND WAS TO BE SOLD TO FINANCE THEIR ACTIVITIES.

DURING THE INVESTIGATION, IT WAS ALSO REVEALED THAT BRANSON IS THE "DEFENSE MINISTER" OF THE SECT AND HIS STATUS IN THE INTERNAL HIERARCHY IS VERY HIGH. IT IS SUSPECTED THAT HE INSTRUCTS THE MEMBERS OF THE SECT

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ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS AND ACTS AS A MESSENGER ON FINANCIAL MATTERS.

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, THE COMMANDER OF THE BEN-GURION AIRPORT POLICE, NITSAV-MISHNE ABRAHAM MARCUS, STATED YESTERDAY THAT MEMBERS OF THE BORDER CONTROL POLICE AT THE AIRPORT HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR MORE PEOPLE WHO WILL ATTEMPT TO ENTER ISRAEL BY VARIOUS MEANS.

END TEXT

2. ANY INFO DEPARTMENT OR MONROVIA MAY HAVE ON ALLEGED FACTORY IN LIBERIA WOULD BE APPRECIATED. LEWIS

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